Assignments of public sector steel companies in foreign countries

†861. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors in which public sector steel companies have got work in foreign countries along with the names of such counties;

(b) the number of people employed in these works; and

(c) the potential in these sectors in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) MECON Ltd., a public sector company under the Ministry of Steel, is providing services in the following sectors in the countries mentioned against each:

Name of Sector	Name of the country
Metal	Bolivia, UAE, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Qatar
Mining (Iron Ore and Rock Phosphate)	Syria

(b) The number of persons employed vary from project to project. However, around 15-20 persons are employed for overseas assignments every year.

(c) The potential in the metal sector appears good in the coming years.

Merger of 'Nahan Foundry' with SAIL

862. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to resume 'Nahan Foundry' at Himachal Pradesh by merging it with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) as announced by Hon'ble Minister in his speech delivered in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the concrete plan Government has prepared to fulfill the purpose; and

(c) if not, by when all the formalities are likely to be completed to restart 'Nahan Foundry' under SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) A team of officials from the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has visited Nahan in Himachal Pradesh in connection with the setting up of a Steel Processing Unit. During the visit, they also visited Nahan Foundry. SAIL has not yet taken any final decision in the matter.

Import for steel industry

†863. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some materials are being imported for Government steel industry; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi